

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05132 251556Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5380

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, ET, SO

SUBJECT: PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU SPEAKS MIND

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 5091; (B) ADDIS ABABA 5108

SUMMARY: AT AUGUST 24 RALLY, PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) CHAIRMAN MENGISTU DELIVERED SPEECH CLEARLY REFLECTING PERSONAL VIEWS ON ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION; INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FOES; COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC, JUST AND CLASSLESS SOCIETY; AND URGENCY OF ERITREAN AND OGADEN SITUATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HIGHLIGHT SPEECH DELIVERED AT HUGE PATRIOTIC

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 05132 251556Z

RALLY AUGUST 24, PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. ON ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, MENGISTU EMPHASIZED GOALS OF EQUALITY, JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY AND CLASSLESS SOCIETY. HE ASSERTED REVOLUTION ERUPTED BETWEEN TWO OPPOSING CLASSES (PRESUMABLY WEALTHY AND POOR), AND WAS POPULAR REVOLUTION BORN OF POPULAR WISH. HE SAID ETHIOPIAN PROGRESSIVES HAD ACCEPTED SOCIALISM BECAUSE

REACTIONARIES WERE RUTHLESSLY OPPRESSING AND EXPLOITING ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND BECAUSE SOCIALISM COULD ELIMINATE CLASS DISTINCTIONS TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIETY FREE OF DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON SEX, RELIGION OR ETHNICITY.

2. ON INTERNAL FOES, MENGISTU ALLUDED TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS MASQUERADING AS PROGRESSIVES (PROBABLY EPRP), TO ANTI-PEOPLE REMNANTS (PROBABLY EDU), AND TO THOSE "ON WHOM WE HAD PLACED OUR TRUST WHO...HAD DESERTED THE REVOLUTIONARY RANKS" (PROBABLY RECENTLY DEPARTED LEFTIST SUPPORTS). NOTING THAT MATTER OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS, PROBABLY IN ATTEMPT TO REASSURE RECENTLY MODIFIED POLITBURO. ON ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS, MENGISTU EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT THEY HAD PEACEFULLY ACQUIESCED IN ARISTOCRATIC AND EXPATRIOTIC CONTROL OVER ERITREAN MEANS OF PRODUCTION PRIOR TO REVOLUTION, BUT THAT AFTER MEANS HAD BEEN RETURNED TO PEOPLE, SECESSIONISTS BEGAN DESTROYING PROPERTIES BY EXPLOSIVES.

3. ON EXTERNAL ENEMIES, MENGISTU REPEATED ACCUSATIONS AGAINST SAID BARRE AND SOMALIS, BUT ONLY MENTIONED ARABS IN PASSING AND US NOT AT ALL. SOVIET UNION NOT CRITICIZED, BUT MARXISM-LENINISM NOT PRAISED EITHER, ALTHOUGH MUCH OF JARGON OF SPEECH SEEMED TO BE MARXIST-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 05132 251556Z

INSPIRED.

4. TURNING TO CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION, MENGISTU VOWED TO SET EXAMPLE AND NOT RETREAT FROM BATTLE FIELD. HE SAID BATTLE IS AGAINST TIME, WHERE EVERY MOMENT LOCALITIES ESSENTIAL TO ETHIOPIAN UNITY AND NEXT REVOLUTIONARY STAGE BEING INVADDED. ALTHOUGH "FRONT" STRETCHED LENGTH AND BREADTH OF COUNTRY, MENGISTU PLEDGED BANDITS AND THEIR ARMAMENTS DEPLOYED INSIDE ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, MENGISTU SAID DIRECTIVES TO BROAD MASSES HAVE BEEN WRITTEN AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DETAIL VERY SOON.

5. COMMENT: WHILE SPEECH DOES NOT COVER MUCH NEW GROUND, IT FURTHER INDICATES DEGREE TO WHICH MENGISTU APPEARS TO BE PERSONALIZING HIS RULE AND TURNING TO "BROAD MASSES," RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICAL ADVISORS, TO SUSTAIN ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. AGAIN, PMAC INTENTIONS RE MOBILIZATION WERE NOT SPELLED OUT, BUT THIS TIME HE PROMISED NEW DIRECTIVES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. TIENKEN

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